

Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUITO 00275 161635Z
ACTION ARA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6950

UNCLAS QUITO 0275

FOR: IOP/M; ILA; IBS/PL; IPS/PL

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: ECUADOREAN CHOOSE NEW CONSTITUTION

1. ACCORDING TO GOVERNMENT ESTIMATES, APPROXIMATELY 90 PCT OF ELIGIBLE VOTERS PARTICIPATED IN THE CONSTITUTIONAL REFERENDUM YESTERDAY AND CHOSE THE NEW CONSTITUTIONAL PROJECT OVER THE REVISED 1945 CONSTITUTION BY A 42 TO 33 PERCENT MARGIN WITH 23 PERCENT OF THE VOTERS NULLIFYING THEIR VOTE.

2. ACCORDING TO QUITO'S MONDAY MORNING'S EL COMERCIO, "AFTER AN EXTRAORDINARY TURNOUT, THE ECUADOREAN PEOPLE APPROVED YESTERDAY THE NEW CONSTITUTION AND GAVE SUPPORT TO THE CONTINUATION OF THE PLAN OF LEGAL RESTRUCTURING WITH 77 PERCENT OF THE VOTES IN FAVOR OF THE (TWO) CONSTITUTIONAL TEXTS. THE PARTICIPATION IN THE REFERENDUM WAS MASSIVE, ESPECIALLY IN THE COUNTRY'S URBAN AREAS. DUE TO THE ENORMOUS NUMBER OF VOTERS AND DISCREPACIES IN THE ORGANIZATION OF ELECTIONS, THERE WERE A NUMBER OF PROBLEMS IN SEVERAL LOCATIONS, ALTHOUGH THE REFERENDUM, IN GENERAL, TOOK PLACE IN A PEACEFUL ATMOSPHERE WITH NO MAJOR INCIDENTS."

3. HOWEVER, EL COMERCIO AND OTHER MEDIA REPORTED THE ARREST OF ASSAD BUCARAM AND OTHER POLITICAL LEADERS: "A GROUP OF POLITICAL LEADERS WAS ARRESTED INCLUDING ASSAD BUCARAM IN GUAYAQUIL, OSWALDO UNCLASSIFIED

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HURTADO (PRESIDENT OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS), JULIO CESAR TRUJILLO (PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATISM), AND LUIS GOMEZ IZQUIERDO (UNION NACIONAL DEMOCRATICA), FOR POLITICAL CAMPAIGNING. SOME 29 PERSONS WERE ARRESTED FOR CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES DURING THE REFERENDUM." EN ITEM.
ROCKWEILER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
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